

Stroke Coalition for American Heart Month.

The heart, of course, represents Valentine's Day, and it is more important to the body than anybody can ever imagine.

Let me give you a little background. About 62 million Americans suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease. One million die from such conditions each year. One American every 33 seconds dies of cardiovascular disease. Heart disease is the number one killer in the United States, followed by cancer, Alzheimer's and HIV and AIDS.

For women heart disease is the number one killer of American women. Heart disease and stroke kill more American women than men, and one in five women have some form of cardiovascular disease.

Economic burden: Heart disease and stroke are expected to cost the U.S. \$392.2 billion in 2002.

Though heart disease was once considered an inevitable consequence, if you will, of aging, today these diseases can be treated aggressively with a variety of procedures. Treatment options include medicines for high blood pressure, a leading risk factor of heart disease and stroke; medicines that lower cholesterol; clot-buster medicines that can save the lives of heart attack patients; and drugs that can prevent second heart attacks from occurring.

Education of the American public is still necessary. Over 61 percent of the American public is considered overweight by the U.S. Surgeon General. We must enforce the idea of including diet and exercise into daily living.

I would like to talk about a few things I cosponsored along with Senator BOB GRAHAM of Florida, and one is House Resolution 2508, which is the Medicare Wellness Act of 2001. Congress added, due to our legislation, the first preventative benefits to Medicare in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Medicare Wellness Act of 2001 seeks to add more benefits. Among other things, the bill provides for Medicare coverage of cholesterol screening and medical nutrition therapy for those with cardiovascular disease. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and I will work with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and, of course, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the House leadership to try to move that bill forward this year.

The greatest challenge will be the cost of the bill, but let me suggest that cost of doing nothing is enormous, as I mentioned that \$300-plus billion tab that we are paying one way or the other.

Another bill we have filed is H.R. 630, which is the Teaching Children to Save Lives Act, and that authorizes the Secretary of Education to make grants to State agencies to award grants to local agencies in targeted schools or school districts for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, CPR, training in targeted localities; requires such training to use

nationally recognized training courses and to be in the public schools which includes students of any age between the ages of grades 6 through 12. Grants must be to ensure in conjunction with local efforts that training sites have the ability to start up and foster community partnership among public and private agencies to help provide such training.

I work with the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), my cochairman of the caucus, in which to see this legislation come to fruition.

Health care is probably the number one domestic issue facing Congress this year. The President articulated it in his State of the Union message, and he also spoke about it while he was in Wisconsin, and he continues to remind the public of the importance of health care as we deliberate the important issues of the day.

We must continue to provide funding for research to stop the number one killer of Americans this year. And I will continue to work as cochair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition to increase awareness of heart disease and stroke among the Members of Congress and the administration.

SUPPORTING PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, at Congress the highs are very high, and the depths can be very low. We certainly ended the session last night on a high note. It was 2:30 in the morning with you, but we finally passed a campaign finance reform, a piece of legislation that is likely to survive in concert with the other body. And also I think that there is a rumor the President may sign it. So I think the American people have a lot to applaud along with the Members of this House for our work this week.

We go into Valentine's Day, a day of love of all kinds. I hope everybody feels many different forms, kind of love and is willing to exhibit that love and compassion. Unfortunately we sank to a new low on Valentine's Day by refusing to pass a stimulus package which addressed the sufferings of working families in America. It would have been so easy for us to celebrate this day by addressing the immediate problem of the unemployed workers. Whether they are unemployed because of the fact of the tragedy on September 11, or they were unemployed because of the creeping recession that was on the way before, we still should have addressed those problems.

We should have addressed those proposals that were made by the Progressive Caucus that were made for some 3 or 4 months that not only should we have increased the amounts of weeks that unemployed workers can receive

unemployment insurance, but we should also increase the amounts of money available, because in many States they have reduced the amount of money available in the unemployment insurance payments. We also suggested that, pushed hard for a combination of health benefits to go along with the unemployment insurance benefits so that workers losing their jobs temporarily, we hope it is temporary, would be able to maintain for 6 months a health care plan which would carry their families during that period.

These are very compassionate and humane considerations, and it is a pity that on Valentine's Day, in the process of playing games with a stimulus package, what we call a stimulus package, we would not address the needs of working families in America.

It might be noted that we still have not addressed the needs of the immediate airline workers who were laid off as a result of a constrictions within the airline industry. We addressed the industry and the executives and their needs. We appropriated billions of dollars for immediate cash to make up for any losses they might have experienced as a result of the September 11 tragedy, and we also set up an \$11 billion low-interest loan fund.

We did a great deal for the airline industry, and the executives will profit a great deal, and the shareholders will profit a great deal. We made a promise that we will come back and take care of the airline industry workers who were laid off, the estimated number being about 100,000. We have not made good on that promise either. It would have been great if on Valentine's Day it could have been made good on that promise.

I want to talk today about the matter of failing to show compassion and sympathy to the Americans who need it most, those people who now need a safety net, that failure of compassion and where it fits into a number of different issues and problems that we are considering now in the country as a whole. I want to talk about a conversion of issues, and this issue of compassion for those who were on the bottom, compassion for those who need safety nets is a key at the heart of the discussion of all of these other items that I want to mention.

I want to include the fact that in this conversion of issues, that it is important that we have here on the Hill today the President of Pakistan, President Musharraf. President Musharraf was here as a major ally in the war against terrorism, a country which certainly had to think for a long time and think hard before joining the alliance against terrorism because it had a great deal at stake has come down firmly on the side of those of us who care about democracy, those of us who care about liberties and freedom, those of us who care about women being treated equally. They have come down on the side of a coalition which was proposed by President Bush.

They are taking great risk; the President of Pakistan and his government are taking great risk. They are right on the border of Afghanistan. They are right in the heart of two nations that are Islamic. They are threatened on the other hand by India that is hostile for various reasons. I will not go into all the of them at this point.

They are in a precarious position, but once again, Pakistan has come to the aid of the United States. They have always done this. During the Cold War they were there. When the Russians attacked Afghanistan, they were there. We have always relied heavily on the goodwill and participation in an alliance by Pakistan. Unfortunately, we have not rewarded Pakistan when the need for their services has been over. We have too often neglected to follow through and show our appreciation.

In fact, today as I met with the Committee on International Relations in their session with President Musharraf, President Musharraf used the phrase that he said somebody had mentioned yesterday he was not so familiar with that term, but he assumed what it meant. Somebody said, Are you worried about when the United States will again dump Pakistan; will they dump Pakistan again? He assumed that this meant abandon Pakistan, and he is correct. But "dump" somehow is a more poignant word which gets to the heart of the matter.

□ 1445

We have repeatedly dumped Pakistan after using Pakistan. I hope it does not happen again, but that significant attempt is a convergence of issues I want to talk about today.

Our success against the Taliban in Afghanistan would have not been possible without the help of Pakistan. They have gone to great lengths to provide maximum help to the United States in that fight against the Taliban. The success against the Taliban is something we ought to take a look at and understand the implications of that. Why were we so successful so swiftly? I think at the heart of that success is the fact that the Taliban never had the population of Afghanistan on their side.

It relates very much to another issue that I am going to discuss later and that is Haiti. The Taliban was an example of what happened in Haiti. We have a group of 4- or 5,000 armed thugs who have command of the tanks and the guns and the bullets. They can take over a nation, and they can rule that nation, although they are only a tiny percentage of the nation. It happened in Haiti with its 7 million people, and we had to work for 3 years in order to get back into Haiti the democratically elected President, and in the final analysis it took troops.

President Clinton had to have the guts to order the troops to go into Haiti to restore democracy. When our troops landed, not a single shot was fired. If we think the Taliban was easy

in Afghanistan, remember Haiti. Not a single shot was fired. No lives were lost. We went on for quite a long time before even a soldier was killed by accident in Haiti because the people of Haiti were not in favor of the government they had. The people would not stand against it. The so-called military were cowards, and they would terrorize the people, but once they were confronted, they melted away.

That is the lesson we ought to bear in mind as we look at the Taliban and the implications of the Taliban. We are now concerned about now that the Taliban have been defeated, what are we going to do in terms of helping Afghanistan become a strong nation, let Afghanistan become a strong nation so that never again will a bin Laden or someone like that attempt to take over the country and use the country as a base for terrorism.

The whole concept of nation-building, which was much maligned just a few years ago, has now become a positive concept as it always should have been. Nation-building should not be a dirty phrase, and we are beginning to understand that, and beyond nation-building we ought to take a look at the possibility of nation preservation. The nations that already exist who are on wobbly legs, who are in deep trouble, deserve some help in being able to maintain legal, constitutional, democratically elected governments, which brings me to another issue that I want to put in this mix of issues.

That is the war against drugs in Colombia. Colombia was allocated a billion dollars for the war against drugs there. It is a military war. Military expenditures and military wars are the most expensive ways to fight drugs, to fight for the integrity of a country. We could have done so much more with less money if we had given economic aid to Colombia 5 or 10 years ago, but right now Colombia is a nation very much like Afghanistan. There is a back and forth with guerrillas, and the guerrillas may take over and they may become friendly with a government that is not necessarily threatening America with terrorism, but with a more steady flow of drugs and with relationships with other nations in the hemisphere, small islands in the Caribbean, Haiti.

The Colombian drug trade has the potential to spread its tentacles out with such enormous amounts of money at the command of the drug lords that it will impact among many nations in the hemisphere, and we may find ourselves surrounded by a circle of nations run by drug lords which will be a far greater threat to America than the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The growing influence of drug lords in the Western Hemisphere is a major problem we should be concerned with, which brings me to the questions in Haiti.

Haiti, at the time that the Army of Haiti staged a coup and kicked out the lawfully elected, democratically elected President, kicked him out, he had to

run for his life. At that time the drug lords were very much in control in Haiti, and for a long time, the people in charge, Michel Francois and Raoul Cedras were the beneficiaries of an inflow of drug money from the drug czars so that every time one went to the bargaining table with them to try to get them to be reasonable and accept the democratically elected president returning to Haiti, they were very strong because they had a source of money, so far as income, which kept them well-heeled despite the fact that we had imposed an economic embargo on Haiti. And we were certainly making the people of Haiti in general suffer, but those guys never suffered a day in their lives because they had an influx of money from drug lords.

The same thing is happening now in Haiti. The drug lords are becoming stronger and stronger every day because since the return of a democratic government in Haiti, the policies of the United States have been very backwards, hostile, mean-spirited, hateful. There is a small cabal of very powerful leaders in America who literally hate the Government of Haiti at this point. They hate President Aristide and all he stands for. I have never seen such personal venom directed to a nation or its leader, and we are making foreign policy toward Haiti on the basis of those powerful people who will not live up to promises of aid.

They have promised \$200 million in aid as a kingpin part of a package, that was supposed to be the kingpin and lead to a domino effect that was positive, and other nations like France and Canada and Great Britain, everybody was going to contribute to an effort that depended on being started by the \$200 million the United States would supply. Powerful forces here in Washington, sometimes single individuals, have blocked the flow of that money to Haiti, and then Haiti has experienced a great deal of suffering.

The people who had such high optimism for their democratically elected government have now begun to sink into a great deal of despair, and the old problems are coming back in terms of more and more violence. That appears to be the only answer for those who really want to weigh out and want to take shortcuts.

So the strangling of a nation is taking place right before our eyes in this hemisphere with respect to Haiti. We need a global policy with immediate focus on this hemisphere, global policy which deals with Haiti first, a policy which deals with the fact the drug lords may have a great deal of influence in the nations surrounding us in the Caribbean islands other than Haiti, a policy which deals with this hemisphere in terms of something better in Colombia than the present military war which we are losing, and, even if we win, will not lead to any permanent eradication of Colombia as a major base for drugs.

I forgot to point out that the Taliban in Afghanistan were primarily funded

through the movement of drugs, just as their people who helped us to liberate the population from the Taliban, the Northern Alliance, also depend heavily on drugs and the flow of drugs, the drug trade, to finance them.

Drugs are a major problem in our fight against terrorism. It may not be so overt at this point, but if countries are eventually controlled by drug lords in this hemisphere, they will not necessarily have an agenda of hate against the United States for political reasons or religious reasons. They have their own selfish reasons for doing whatever they do, and they certainly would be available and for sale for enemies with bigger agendas, or they themselves would be an enemy that we should fear a great deal because of the way they would allow drugs to flow into our country with greater and greater ease and lower and lower prices, addicting more and more of our population. All of these problems are inevitably interwoven.

I am going to yield in a few minutes to a colleague of mine who particularly wants to discuss the problems in Haiti and the kinds of needed emergency that we are faced with here and the fact that the Secretary of State Colin Powell, who himself is of Jamaican descent, visited with the members of Caricom.

Caricom is an economic organization consisting of all the various Caribbean governments, and he visited with them, and they had a long discussion, and one of the great problems that was put forth by the heads of Caribbean states was that they are being overwhelmed by a great number of Haitian refugees. We have in the Clinton administration boatloads of Haitian refugees directed at this country and coming in at large numbers, ships sinking at sea, and finally we had to interdict and carry people off, and at one point we had 19,000 people at Guantanamo Naval Base, Haitian refugees, the problem was that big, until President Clinton finally moved to ease the pressure by restoring democracy in Haiti.

People went home and they stayed home because they had hope. Now that hope is being lost, they are not coming to this country again because probably the Coast Guard is out there very aware and very, probably very effective in stopping the movement of boats in this direction, maybe deadly so. We do not know, but they know the problem because they had it before. So instead of coming into this country, the refugees are going to targets which are easier to get into, and that is the other countries of the Caribbean.

I want to yield to my colleague from Florida if she would like to speak on the issue of Haiti at this point.

As I said before, all these problems are inevitably interwoven. We have a need for a vision and a comprehensive policy to deal with these problems, and human affairs is as complicated or more complicated than nuclear physics. So a complicated policy which un-

derstands how these issues relate to each other is needed; some vision is needed by this administration. We have but one enemy out there to fight, and that is the enemy that is against democracy or against liberty and against our constitutional civilization. These enemies, whether they come in the form of drug lords or Taliban spouting hatred on a religious basis, they are still enemies.

Haiti is a particular case where an elected government, democratically elected, is being harassed, ignored, neglected and abandoned by our own policies here in this country, and we need to move to deal with putting pressure on our administration to move in a more humane manner in order to save a nation. We do not have to build a nation in Haiti. We have to preserve a nation.

I yield to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and very academic Representative, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), for reserving this time today and for leadership over the years on behalf of the nation of Haiti.

When I came to the Congress in 1992, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) was the person at that time who inspired me to keep up this fight for Haiti. I represent a great number of Haitians in this country. I am from Miami, Florida, and we do have a very large representation, almost as large as the gentleman from New York's representation.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) represents the larger Haitian population, contrary to my congressional district.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is a subject that I know something about. One of the neighbors in my district, one of the largest neighborhoods is called Little Haiti, and it is one of the largest concentrations of Haitians in the world outside of Haiti itself.

While Haiti is an abstraction for many Americans, to many of my constituents it is their place of birth, the place of birth of their mothers and fathers, and still home to friends and family.

The human suffering in Haiti in this hemisphere, the poorest in the world, is something that no American would be proud of if they really understood what Haiti is going through and what the people in Haiti are going through.

Let me give my colleagues just a little background as to why we should be more aware of what is going on in Haiti and try to help America understand the plight of this country. Sixty percent of 8.2 million people are undernourished. Think of it, 60 percent of the people who live there. Their illiteracy rate is 48 percent, and 85 percent of Haitian adults are illiterate.

The United States has made some efforts in Haiti, not enough, but we are here today to say that the efforts that have been made are not in jeopardy.

Only 40 percent of the population has access to clean water. Think of it. We take all of these things for granted, but only 40 percent of the population in Haiti has access to clean water.

□ 1500

The per capita income of people living in Haiti is only \$460 per year. What a dismal thing when we think of what is going on in Haiti. AIDS is the leading cause of death in Haiti, and infant mortality is more than twice the regional average. Life expectancy is 54 years of age, compared to a regional average of 70.

Clearly, Haiti's problems far exceed the resources it has to address them. That is why I am so grateful today that my colleague brought Haiti to the attention of this country.

Let us talk a little bit about the loans that were supposed to go to Haiti. The problems are being made worse because of decisions that are made by our own government. Just last week, Secretary of State Colin Powell said that the United States would oppose the \$200 million in loans for the Inter-American Development Bank until the Haitian Government and its opposition find a way to settle their dispute. That stems from local and legislative elections held in 2000.

Now, think of this picture. Colin Powell has said they are going to hold back the loans that are to go to Haiti until they straighten out the legislative elections held in 2000. How long are they going to keep food, clean water, and clean air from the children who are suffering in Haiti?

Secretary Powell said he was terribly concerned about the political unrest in Haiti and that he does not believe that enough has been done to move the political process forward. That is another challenge. But, still, the children are dying, they are going without food, they are going without proper clothing, and we must wait until the political process moves forward.

Secretary Powell said he felt he had to hold President Aristide and the Haitian Government to "fairly high levels of performance" before we could simply allow funds to flow into the country. My question is, my esteemed colleague, what does Secretary Powell expect from the poorest country in the hemisphere, where people routinely go hungry, where children have no school, where health care is reserved for the wealthy and the economy is in shambles?

Haiti returned to constitutional government in 1994, following decades of the brutal dictatorships of Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier and the military powerhouse which was directed against a brief period of democratic rule. Mr. Speaker, democracy is a very difficult form of government. Ask me, I know about it, even in the best of circumstances. We know this from our own experience here in the United States where we have every advantage.

Imagine how difficult it is to make democracy work when 85 percent of the

adults cannot read, unemployment is in double digits, and inflation hovers around 15 percent. I submit that American democracy would be sorely tested under such conditions.

It is clear that Haitian progress and political stability is tied very closely to the release of \$200 million in Inter-American Development Bank loans which the United States is blocking. Because of the United States Government's action, the European Union has also withheld funds from Haiti. Two great nations, the United States and the European Union.

Our small island neighbors in the Caribbean, called Caricom, have criticized our government because it is depriving the Aristide government of the resources it desperately needs to alleviate human suffering, move the economy and stabilize their society. I think it is ironic that our government has agreed to \$380 million in United States taxpayer guaranteed loans to keep American West Airlines in business, but they will not approve \$200 million in loans for the Inter-American Development Bank to keep the country of Haiti from collapsing.

I plan to visit Haiti again next week. The gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) and I, and several members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have visited Haiti many times. Next week, we plan to go over there on a CODEL with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), ranking member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, and others of my colleagues. We are trying to seek a way out of this impasse.

It is my hope that the administration will stop treating the nation of Haiti as an enemy. Haiti is not an enemy of the United States, they are not terrorists either, and instead begin to see Haiti for what it is, a poor and fledgling democracy, a needy neighbor, a nation filled with desperate people who, like poor and desperate people all over the world, look to the richest and most powerful Nation on the Earth for help.

We need help. It is in the pipeline for Haiti. And I want to thank my colleague very much for giving me this opportunity to speak just a little while about the poor people of Haiti and about the people in Miami I represent and what their feelings are toward helping this Nation.

Mr. OWENS. I thank my colleague from Florida, and I wish she could remain a minute to have a brief colloquy with me.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Since I think most Americans do not know it, could the gentlewoman tell us how far away or how close Haiti is to the American mainland?

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. It is very close. I think it is about 90 miles. It takes just an hour by plane from Miami to Haiti. It is the closest democracy to us. Mile-wise, I am not sure exactly the mileage.

Mr. OWENS. Could the gentlewoman also tell us about the Haitian commu-

nity in Miami? To what extent does the gentlewoman see influences of the drug lords there from Haiti?

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Well, drugs are a problem in Miami, in that drugs are now being routed into Haiti because it is a poor country, it is a depressed country. Something needs to be done about interdiction. I think our government should intervene in Haiti to keep the drug lords from taking over Haiti. It is very close to the Dominican Republic. They have trouble with the Haitian infusion there. Nassau, the Bahamas, is having trouble because the people in Haiti are very poor.

To answer the question, the Haitian community in Miami is well aware of these problems. They are organizing every day to try to bring these problems we have discussed to the light of this country. So the drug problem is great.

Also, immigration is a problem. And, of course, if situations continue to get worse and worse in Haiti, then they are going to try to migrate to the United States. And when they do that, they come in boats, they come in any way they can get there, and many of them lose their lives. Many of them are washed up on the shores of Miami Beach.

It makes a very bad picture to see these pictures of people who are running from a very poor and deprived country coming to another country, where there is all the good, when America could be extending the loans and the help which they should be giving to Haiti now. Because it would stop people from dying, and it would stop the drug lords from looking at Haiti as being a very lucrative place to peddle their drugs.

So it is a big problem. It is a security risk as long as we allow the drug lords to operate in and out of there. It is a country that has a lot of water around it, and they can deal in drugs and cause drugs to go there.

So we are trying to plead to this country that the \$200 million or more that they are holding up is really a detriment. It is not worth it when we could give some relief to that country and sort of delay the infusion of drugs that are there.

So the Haitian community in Miami is a very intelligent community. They are working very hard. They are very industrious. They are also very nationalistic. They love America. They want to become a part of our society, and they have in the past, and they will continue to do so.

I guess what I am saying is that they are aware of these problems. They have really appealed to the government, and my colleague has been a big part of it. When we came up here to appeal to the Clinton administration to do something about the situation in Haiti, they did try. They did send monies to Haiti. They tried to develop a police force.

But I go back to the point that this is a very fledgling democracy, and democracy is not easy. We cannot just

give up and back out the first time we have some problems there. And it appears that President Aristide seems to be a problem with many of the people here in the United States, even here in this Congress. It is a very unfair assessment of President Aristide.

Mr. OWENS. If the gentlewoman will answer one more question. It is my opinion that the hostile forces here in Washington, hostile people, the four or five key people with a lot of power, very hostile towards President Aristide's government, are using the election as an excuse, the technicalities of an election, which was not a bad election at all, in my opinion.

The gentlewoman is closer to what happened in Florida, the heartbreaking Presidential election fiasco in Florida. Can the gentlewoman tell us whether she thinks what happened in Florida was far more outrageous and complicated and probably controversial than what happened in the Haitian elections; and that we are moving on and nobody dares to chastise us or penalize us for the election problems that we had in the Presidential election related to Florida.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. As a matter of fact, I thank the gentleman for that question. The election in Florida was a quagmire of confusion and delusion, in that the election in Florida cannot even be compared to Haiti's elections.

Haiti elections were much better run than the election in Florida. There were so many circumstances that happened in Florida, in this Nation. In this Nation, where we have all the technology in the world, in this Nation where we have all of the leadership in the world, to have an election that some people were denied the right to vote is a travesty of democracy.

The Haitian election was much better run. But did we censor this country because of it? Were we able to get any redress of our grievances? No. Were we able to come before this very Congress to show the situation in the election and show them what a bad situation it was, how it defied democracy? No, we could not get any redress. And it was a well-kept secret, the many, many problems in Florida.

So it is so difficult to even compare it with Haiti. It does not even come up to the standards of the election in Haiti and some of the other underdeveloped countries as well.

So, no, I do not see why we would use that. We are making it a political football because we do not want to help Haiti, and it is strictly political. There are people even in our own Congress who have fought against Haiti for the entire 10 years I have been here.

I have never been so wrought up in my life as I have been coming to this Congress appealing for some help for Haiti. We can get it for other countries, and many of them, in my opinion, who do not deserve as much help as they are getting. But Haiti, one of

the poorest countries in the world, cannot get any because of the political nuances or the political deep-seated feelings and hate and despise people have for Haiti.

I cannot understand it. And it is important that we help America understand that these few people are keeping their foot on the necks of Haiti.

Mr. OWENS. Does the gentlewoman have any immediate recommendations for action that she thinks we could take? I know there will be a CODEL visiting Haiti soon. Are there any other things she thinks we should do right away?

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Well, I think we should undertake things we undertook in 1992, and we have been working on it for the last 10 years. We should continue to bring this to the forefront of our government, to help our President and his cabinet understand the importance of paying attention to Haiti.

I think it is a matter of helping America understand that we cannot sweep this condition under the rug. We cannot continue to let four or five well-meaning people, who are deliberately, because of their feelings about Haiti, cause people to die in Haiti, cause children to not have clothing.

I think we should continue with the kinds of things the gentleman is doing this afternoon, the kinds of things we do in our meetings back home, the kinds of things we do when we go on the radio, appealing for help. We have to let our leaders understand how important help is to Haiti, how important help is to a nation that is struggling to become a democracy. Haiti is a democracy, and it is a small democracy that is struggling to keep democracy alive. And I repeat, it is not easy.

So what we need to do is to continue to help this country and the leaders in this Congress understand, and our administration. I think they will be better able to help us if we continue to stress it. We must not lean away from it and ease up on the pressure.

So I guess my recommendation is that we keep the pressure on; that groups such as the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and all the caucuses in this Congress should continue to put pressure. There was a time when we were pressing on the Attorney General of this country to help. I think we should go back again to Attorney General Ashcroft and give him the same kind of briefings that we gave Attorney General Reno and continue that effort to help America understand.

I am saying, in full, that we cannot cease our pressure on the government. That is the only way. We must also continue to seek the Haitian people in this country, in the gentleman's district and in my district, and say to them, look, you must continue to petition your government. It is your government, you must continue to petition them. They cannot sit back and wait on those of us in Congress to do

all the work. They must continue the things that they started in 1990-1992 in general.

We do need people to discuss this, to talk about it, to bring it to light in the world. We cannot allow any more to sit back and rest. We are going to Haiti again; we are going to have CODELs there. We are going to come back to the Congress and talk about the situation there.

There is a woman in Miami, a very fine woman, a white woman, who went to Haiti, and she saw what was going on over there.

□ 1515

She came back and she is using her own money because she saw what was going on in Haiti. She is raising money and helping the children in Haiti. She has been here to talk to us. I hope to bring her before a committee to hear what she has done. This is one woman who has undertaken this because of her humanitarian feeling toward the people of Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, if we continue to expose this to our government and appeal to this administration, as we did the past administration, if we continue to ask Haitians who are here in this country who have become Haitian Americans to continue to speak out, I think Haiti will come back to what we think is a true democracy.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

I would like to emphasize a few points, and that is that Haiti is a democracy right now. They have the most democratic government that Haiti has ever had since Haiti was founded. In this hemisphere, Haiti was the second independent nation after the United States became independent. Haiti wanted its independence. The only slave revolt in history that was successful in keeping the oppressors out and establishing their own nation, but it was not democratically run for most of the years of its existence, including the 32 years that the United States Government, the United States Army occupied Haiti.

Then came Francois Duvalier and his son Baby Doc Duvalier, and they were dictators of the worst kind, and yet our government cooperated with them for almost 40 years.

Now we have a democratically elected government, and because of a technicality related to some of the precincts and some of the things that did not go right in the election, we are using that as an excuse for withholding \$200 million that was promised 8 years ago when Aristide was first restored as the President of Haiti. That promise was there. And the failure of the Western powers, the United States in the lead, to act has meant that hope has been lost and despair has set in, and now we have an erosion of the faith of the people in constitutional and democratic government. People are desperate, and they are taking out on the

high seas to find another place and putting a great deal of pressure on other nations within the hemisphere.

We have not been noble at all in our conduct toward Haiti. The whole United States of America, the great country that it is, has allowed a number of people which I can put on one hand, less than 5 people are responsible for the bottlenecks that have blocked any aid to Haiti. Their own hatred and hostility have held up aid to this nation because of the hostility and personal peeve of a handful of powerful Americans.

Haiti came to our aid in the War of 1812. And throughout the history of Haiti, World War I and World War II, nobody has been able to use Haiti as a base for sabotage to harm the United States.

Like Pakistan, the President used the term that he heard from an American, are we going to get dumped again? Pakistan has had a history of certainly being loyal to the American cause, supporting us in alliances, and the great question is are we going to be ignoble in our behavior towards Pakistan.

President Musharraf has good reason to be concerned. We have done some terrible things to Pakistan. We have held up funds that they had paid for certain fighter airplanes. We did not give them the airplanes back or the money back. They still have not resolved the issue of getting the money back. We should do one or the other. That is a well-known contemptuous act toward the Government of Pakistan that ought to be corrected.

In a broader sense and a more important sense, we have abandoned Pakistan's legitimate request that the question of Kashmir, the territory between India and Pakistan, be settled in accordance with a United Nations mandate. The United Nations called for elections where the population of Kashmir would have the right to determine what they wanted to do, whether they wanted to be an independent state, annexed to India, or annexed to Pakistan. That is a United Nations mandate that is more than 50 years old.

Pakistan is still willing to abide by that mandate. They are willing to take their chances, take the risk of their interests not being dealt with appropriately, but they are willing to have internationally supervised elections. India is not, and our United States of America has abandoned the legal, moral position of asking India to live up to the United Nations mandate.

We are willing to leave the issue on the table and let it be silent. We are not raising it or demanding that something be done immediately. So we have an escalating problem in that area of the world which throws Pakistan off base and keeps it in a position where it has to spend a far greater amount of money on its military than it should be spending; and at the same time, it threatens now the possibility of a nuclear conflict.

Instead of waiting until there is an explosion and something that forces us to pay greater attention to it, why not be noble and moral, why not call for an implementation of the United Nations mandate of supervised elections in Kashmir and take Kashmir off the table as an explosive issue in that area of the world.

Pakistan has a lot of problems. We hope that we are sincere about the aid that is now being designated for Pakistan. I understand that it is between \$800 million and \$1 billion, which is part of a package related to fighting terrorism, Pakistan's role in our effort to fight terrorism, which is a key role. Without Pakistan's help, I am certain that the present defeat of the Taliban would not have been accomplished with such low cost in terms of human life and American sacrifices.

So Pakistan deserves to be rewarded. We have the package of between \$800 million and \$1 billion. Are they really going to get it, and are we going to make certain that it flows in a timely manner? The government needs to be boosted right now. The general is here and he is saying, we need economic aid. We need to have something to hold out to our people so that the fringe elements, and there are elements that are very strong. Pakistan is an Islamic Nation. General Musharraf stressed today that it is not a theocracy, but it is an Islamic nation. It has pressure on it from the rest of the Islamic world.

A question was raised with President Musharraf about the fact that the madrasahs, those schools in Pakistan that are run by the clerics, are they going to continue to exist in large numbers, because at those schools we have evidence that the Koran and the basics of literacy are taught, but the only other subject that gets any attention is hatred of the West, and many of the people who ended up in the Taliban camps came out of the madrasahs at an early age in Pakistan. The madrasahs fill a vacuum in Pakistan.

I was in Pakistan for a week because I have a lot of Pakistani American population in my district, and they had asked me to visit Pakistan for some time. I spent a week there. I visited Kashmir as well as several cities in Pakistan. I was primarily interested in visiting schools and observing what is going on in education. We visited the Ministry of Education and a number of different areas where education policy was made.

I must truthfully report that the first and obvious observation is that the Pakistanis use a very small percentage of their budget for education. Education has traditionally suffered in Pakistan. The military gobbles up almost 60 percent of the budget. For many years before that, there was a lot of education on the books that really does not exist by admission of the authorities themselves. They have what they call phantom schools and teachers who were sent checks by the government, but they were not teaching. They have a lot of problems.

They have to come to grips with those problems. For the aid that we give Pakistan, we should get assurances that a large part of that aid will go into education, because the future of the country lies with the improvement of the education of the population starting with literacy, but certainly beyond literacy they have to acquire high-tech skills in order to exist in this modern-day world.

So Pakistan deserves to have as rapidly as possible a deliverance on the aid that has been promised. Pakistan deserves to have as much assistance from the United States Government as we can give. It deserves not to be hide-bound and roadblocked by an obsolete approach of AID. AID must take a new approach and be able to be more creative and accept some improvisation.

The President himself pointed out that a Pakistani group outside the country has put together a trustee fund, a fund that will be overseen by private trustees, and that fund is for education. His fund has put 2 billion rupees into that fund, and the fund will be transparent. The public will be able to see how the funds are being spent on education.

I would like to see our government contribute to that fund, regardless of how unorthodox that may be. They should move immediately to try to meet the Pakistanis halfway and try to move the issue of education forward as fast as possible.

The challenge is not nation-building in Pakistan, the challenge is nation preservation. The President of Pakistan has committed himself to moving forward with elections in October. He said this morning that he would not be a candidate, which removes a great deal of tension from the process, but they will have elections in October.

The preservation of democracy in Pakistan would go a long ways toward meeting the objectives of this country in terms of fighting terrorism, and, beyond that, creating a more just, a more civil, a freer world where greater numbers of people have opportunity is the best way to guarantee our own freedom, our own security.

The tragedy of September 11 certainly demonstrated to us how powerful a small group can be in this complex, modern world of ours. You can hit a nerve center like the World Trade Center, and one can cause all kinds of havoc in terms of immediate lives that are destroyed and telecommunications disrupted and impact on a whole business area that may never come back again employing thousands of people. There is an impact on a city in terms of taking revenue away so that New York City has a budget shortfall of at least \$4 billion. With one hit, a small group was able to accomplish all this.

We want to minimize these threats. We will never get rid of all of the fanatics in the world. We will have to go to war at some points. We had no choice but to go to war after the attacks at the World Trade Center. Violent war,

military war is the only way to deal with fanatics. But we can do so much more to eliminate the possibility of such groups arising either in the international arena or at home, and we are at danger at home of having psychofanatics, people like the bomber of the Oklahoma Federal Building who had no reason that we can clearly see except his mind was all messed up. Psychofanatics do a lot of harm, or we can have small groups that have political agendas or religious agendas out on the fringe who can do a great deal of harm.

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We want to minimize the number of people like that. We want to deny those kinds of fanatical groups a breeding ground by having large numbers of people who are positive, who see themselves as having a piece of the American dream, by having unemployed workers who know that their government will not fail them, will come to their aid at a time when they are needed with unemployment insurance, with health benefits. You can remove a festering environment out there where these diseased movements and groups may take place and do it at a low cost.

The war in Colombia is a very expensive war. Americans should pay attention to it. We have appropriated and talked in terms of \$1 billion. If you will take a couple of hundred million and move it to Haiti right now, you could avert any possibility of Haiti ever degenerating to the point of where you would have to go remove drug lords in Haiti with military force. There is Jamaica, a large nation, one of the largest nations in the Caribbean after Haiti. They recently had gun battles on the street. The drug lords supplied criminals with weapons, and they were able to drive the police off the street. They had more modern weapons. They had submachine guns and various weapons that frightened the police. You have that kind of situation.

You had another Caribbean nation that despite the fact that the man was a known drug lord, he threw a birthday party and all the top officials of the nation went to the birthday party of the drug lord. He obviously invited them to make a point and he made the point. There is another small nation where a drug lord was responsible for the death of a sheriff. Everybody knows who did it, but they cannot get a jury together. They cannot get a group together to really deal with an indictment and punishment.

The coming power of drug lords in this hemisphere is so great until it deserves special attention and ought to be put on the agenda as we consider a global policy for guaranteeing freedom, justice and constitutional democracy all over the world. It is the best way to fight the Taliban types, the Taliban syndrome. The Taliban syndrome exists in many more places than in Afghanistan in one way or another. It exists in places other than Somalia. It

exists in places other than Iraq, in the "evil axis" that has been named. It is only in small quantities now, it will grow, and it need not be. They always depend on chaos that results from people having no more hope, from people refusing to bow in allegiance to any authority, any government.

We know the formula. The formula for fighting the Taliban syndrome is to provide more of our aid and assistance in every way possible short of the military. The military is to be the last resort.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my remarks with a piece that I had written to be placed in the Extension of Remarks in case I did not get this opportunity today. I had written it sometime ago, just finally finished it. It is based on a phrase that President Bush used in his State of the Union address. That phrase has not really been picked up that much. I would like to see it looked at in new terms.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush included several memorable lines in his State of the Union address; however, the phrase which I found most impressive was one that has been largely ignored by the conservative media. He said, "Let's roll. Let's roll. Let's roll, America." I hope that we can all recognize that this is the cry of the lead hero on the passenger jet where unprecedented bravery was exhibited by ordinary Americans.

Remember, there was a jetliner headed for Washington; and the passengers counterattacked against the hijackers, and they forced the plane as a result of their counterattack to crash in a wooded area near Pittsburgh instead of crashing into the White House or maybe the Capitol. We were not sure where that plane was on course for in Washington. At a critical moment, "let's roll" was a call to action by a courageous young and modern American mind. I think the phrase "let's roll" was captured on the cell phone that that young man was on at the time they made the decision to move against the hijackers.

President Bush was quoting that. I think it went over the heads of a lot of people. I think the symbolism of it is very important. In his address, the President made a broad and sweeping interpretation. He was summing up all that he had said before in his speech when he got to the "let's roll" part. You could take everything he said and put it together and say, "Let's roll on all these fronts. Let's roll in all these areas."

The tragedy of September 11 has forced America to a crossroads where we must assume the role naturally bequeathed to us as the most powerful Nation that has ever existed. We have recognized now as never before that our way of life, our democracy, our constitutional civilization cannot remain secure unless we address the problem of freedom and justice throughout the world.

As much as it is a military call to action, "let's roll" must also be a call for

rolling our know-how and technology across the world along with the investment of our enormous amounts of surplus capital. And we must roll our megatons of grain across the world to feed the hungry. By striving to become the most compassionate Nation ever to exist, America has the opportunity to grow and lead mankind forever.

I have condensed my strongly felt sentiments on this matter into an appropriately titled rap poem which I would like to recite. It is called "Let's Roll America."

Let's roll America!
Set the tracks of destiny straight,
Don't look back
But close the gate,
Toast the past
But change the cast.
In every language of the earth
To the country of all nations
We have proudly given birth.
At the Olympics of forever
We will win all the races;
We are Great Angels of tomorrow
With magic mongrel faces.
Let's roll America!
Into the grand canyons
Of great deeds to come,
Up to the Sierra's highest peaks;
Be generous philanthropy geeks,
Be fanatic democracy freaks,
All the Founders dared to seek;
Sing loud the hallelujah note,
All our races and women can vote.
America, let's roll!
Stand navy out to sea,
Off we go flying to stay free,
War never leaves us thrilled
But maniacs demand to be killed.
Saddam Hussein Satan's tutored
underboss—

Hitler minus the crooked cross
Gleefully calculates the victim loss.
Patrons of peace permitted no
breath,

Ayatollahs eat dinner with death,
Bin Laden is the monster of stealth.
The spirit of Gettysburg calls —
Forward to the Normandy walls;
Descendants of John Brown;
Fascists under any flag
We swear to drown.
War never leaves us thrilled
But maniacs demand to be killed.
Let's roll America!
Let kindergartners take a poll,
Full baby bellies
Is our favorite goal,
Usher in the age of soul.
Toast the past
But change the cast;
Come register for the test—
Only the next generation can rest;
God is our honored guest.
Don't look back
But close the gate,
Greed is not great —
Hang the blacksmiths of hate.
Resolve globally to be kind
Leave isolated arrogance behind.
The Romans did fail
Cause their hearts went stale.
Let's roll America!
Full baby bellies
Is our favorite goal,
Usher in the age of soul.

Sing loud the hallelujah note—
All our races and women can vote.
Let's roll America!
Rev up the freedom of Internets,
Focus food cargo on speeding jets,
Roll under dangerous skies
With great grit that never dies.
Volunteer saturation funding
With wasted wealth rotting in locked
accounts,
Fortunes mushrooming toward infinite amounts,
Carry capital deep into jungles
Where only Bibles once bothered to
go;
Insure the risks of toiling mothers;
Time to help schools and clinics
grow,
Pay off some debts that we don't
owe.
Compassion tells a star spangled
story,
Grandchildren will applaud a new
brand of glory.
Let's roll America!
In every language on the earth
To the country of all nations
We have proudly given birth.
At the Olympics of forever
We will win all the races;
We are Great Angels of tomorrow
With magic mongrel faces.
Let's roll America!
Everywhere children at tables smiling
Is our non-negotiable goal,
Usher in the age of soul.
America let's roll!

AMERICA'S STEEL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CANTOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus to bring before this body the grim crisis facing a major sector of our manufacturing base, a sector which if we allow it to be washed away, if we allow it to leave, if we allow it to go offshore will permanently affect our ability to manufacture within the United States. The crisis that is today facing the American steel industry is one that will be seen and has been seen in many other areas of manufacturing; and I believe in coming years if we do not resolve the steel crisis, if we do not resolve it to the satisfaction of all of those Americans who work in the industry, then I believe we run the great risk of seeing other industries challenged in a similar way.

The domestic steel industry and its current workforce, retirees and their